



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BUS DRIVER PLEADS GUILTY TO IMPORTING OVER 1,000 KILOGRAMS OF
MARIJUANA**

(El Paso, Texas) **United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that 52-year-old Meliton Pintor-Perez of Guadalajara, Mexico, pled guilty this morning to importing over 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

Pintor-Perez admitted that on January 18, 2003, he drove a tour bus filled with 12 passengers from Torreon, Mexico, to El Paso. The bus was destined for San Antonio. While attempting to enter the United States at the Bridge of Americas Port of Entry, inspectors discovered over 3,300 pounds of marijuana inside a hidden compartment.

As a result of the guilty plea, Pintor-Perez faces between ten years and life in federal prison and a maximum \$4 million fine. U.S. District Judge Phillip Martinez has scheduled sentencing for August 12, 2003.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kristal Wade and Jose Luis Acosta are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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